

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 AGR-20 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 251430 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 510

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOUALA 188

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EK

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA

1. DESPITE INFORMATION THAT BETTER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS MAY LEAD TO AN INCREASE OF 2 TO 3 THOUSAND TONS OVER LAST YEAR'S COCOA HARVEST OF BETWEEN 11.5 AND 12 THOUSAND TONS, EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S 1973 COCOA CROP MAY GO LARGELY UNHARVESTED BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT FMG DECISION NOT TO PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF NIGERIAN LABORERS TO SANTA ISABEL THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO COMMENTS FROM AMBASSADOR BASSEY EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FOR TWO YEARS PAID THEIR WORKERS THE 50 PERCENT FOREIGN CURRENCY COMPONENT WHICH NORMALLY SHOULD BE PAID BY THE GOEG PER THEIR WORK CONTRACT WITH THE FARM HANDS. THIS FACTOR PLUS PERSISTENT HARASSMENT AND PERSECUTION LED THE FMG TO SEND A STRONG DELEGATION UNDER MINISTER OF LABOR AND INFORMATION ENAHORO TO SANTA ISABEL. ACCORDING TO ALL OUTSIDE SOURCES ON THE ISLAND, THE MISSION WAS UNABLE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOEG. A GROUP OF 700 WORKERS IN A TRANSIT CAMP AT CALABAR WERE SENT HOME.

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ON MAY 22 AMB BASSEY LEFT ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF A DEATH IN THE FAMILY AND HAS NOT RETURNED.

2. THE ENAHORO VISIT FREQUENTLY LED TO STRIDENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE DELEGATION AND GOEG OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO CLOSE

SOURCES, CHIEF ENAHORO BECAME ENRAGED AT YET ANOTHER MEANINGLESS KILLING OF A NIGERIAN IN NEW VILLE, THE LARGEST NIGERIAN TOWNSHIP IN SANTA ISABLE, AND DEMANDED TO MAKE A TOUR OF NEW VILLE AND THE MUNICIPAL PRISON. HE FOUND THE PRISON FULL OF HIS COUNTRYMEN. ENAHORO OBTAINED THEIR RELEASE AND SENT THEM HOME ON THE BOAT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING THE 700 WORKERS FROM CALABAR.

3. ALTHOUGH THE GOEG IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE WORK GANGS FROM AMONG DOMESTIC UNEMPLOYED, NO ONE APPEARS TO FEEL THAT THIS WILL HAVE AN APPRECIABLE EFFECT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HARVEST NOW DEPENDENT UPON APPROXIMATELY 2500 RESIDENT NIGERIAN FARMHANDS.
CLARKE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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